GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:78
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS
RAJIV PRATAP RUDY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the lowest density of post offices and network of postal services in the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is huge requirement of post offices in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not sanctioning new rural post offices in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 78 FOR 26TH FEBRUARY, 2001 REGARDING POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS.

With a total of 1,54,551 Post Offices, India has the largest Postal Network in the world.The network has steadily grown by almost 7 times in post independence era from 23344 post offices at the time of independence. There are total number of 1,38, 149 post offices in the rural areas of the country. On an average, a post office in India serves an area of 21.26 sq. kms. and a population of5462. These figures compare very favourably with the figures of average population and average areas served per post office in most other countries of the world. Information regarding total number of post offices, average population and average area served per post office in respect of some representative countries in the world is placed at Annexure-A. It can be seen from this that India is among the countries having the highest density of post offices and network of postal services in the world.

The demands for opening of new post offices in the country are examined in accordance with the prescribed norms, copy of which is placed at Annexure-B. Since the expansion of postal network is a Plan activity, the expansion is done as per Plan targets on the norms based justification subject to availability of financial and human resources.

The provisions of basic postal facilities in the rural areas of the country is also being done through opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras.